

## R. B. WALKER FUNERAL HOME

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OCTOBER 7 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 1346]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1346) for the relief of the R. B. Walker Funeral Home, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the payment of a bill for \$200 to the R. B. Walker Funeral Home for funeral services rendered in connection with the burial of the remains of Artie William Benson, apprentice seaman, United States Naval Reserve.

Artie William Benson, an apprentice seaman (V-6), United States Naval Reserve, was inducted into the Naval Reserve on May 10, 1943, and on the same day he was released to inactive duty. Shortly thereafter he died and the naval recruiting officer at Cincinnati, having cognizance of Benson, advised the Navy Department by dispatch of his death. Upon the receipt of the dispatch, the Navy Department, having no record of the man, assumed that he was in an active duty status and, by dispatch, authorized the naval recruiting officer to have the remains prepared and encased by a local undertaker at a cost of not more than \$200.

The R. B. Walker Funeral Home, at the request of the naval recruiting officer, prepared the remains for burial, provided a casket, and performed other incidental services for which it submitted a bill for \$200. When this bill was taken up for payment, it was discovered that Benson was not in an active-duty status at the time of his death and consequently the bill could not be paid from funds available for care of the dead nor can it be paid from any other funds available to the Navy Department.

As the R. B. Walker Funeral Home rendered the services in good faith and at the instance of the naval recruiting officer, and cannot be paid because there are no funds available to the Navy Department, and as the Navy Department authorized the action on the erroneous assumption that Benson was on active duty, the R. B. Walker Funeral Home in fairness and equity is entitled to payment of its bill.

The bill, if enacted into law, would result in a cost to the Government of \$200.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

